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REGIONAL DOMESTIC TRADE INCREASES;
HONG KONG DATA SHOWS GAIN

EAST CHINA ELIMINATES BARTER TRADE -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 6 Nov 49

The Shang-hai Trade Bureau announced on 24 October 1949 the suspension of barter trading arrangements. In the future, importers will be permitted to make private foreign exchange deals instead of being required to balance their import and export transactions as to goods values. This new arrangement applies to all goods on the authorized list.

The recent arrival of a large shipment of caustic soda in Shang-hai from Hong Kong brought prices down in the city.

Large amounts of paint and dye materials have recently been shipped to T'ien-ching, where, on account of reduction in trade, prices of these goods have gone very high.

T'IENTSING OCTOBER EXPORTS INCREASE -- Wen-hui Pao, 29 Nov 49

According to a report by the T'ien-ching Municipal Merchandise Inspection Bureau, October exports have increased in both quantity and quality over previous periods. For example, the October shipments of oil products amounted to 12,479.13 piculs, six times that of September; hog bristle exports in October reached 571 cases or 3.92 times that of September. Exports of fresh eggs and hog casings have also increased. Only egg and bean products and furs have suffered a slight decline. So far as quality is concerned, the vegetable oils, peanuts, nuts, and furs were all up to required standards.

In all inspection of hog bristles by the bureau, only 500 cases out of 1,210 were up to the required standard.

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HONG KONG TRADE FOR OCTOBER -- Wen-hui Pao, 26 Nov 49

Data from the Hong Kong Office of Industry and Commerce, for October 1949, reveal a substantial increase in both imports and exports over October 1948. Imports showed a gain over September 1949, but exports revealed a loss as compared with September.

Hong Kong Dollars

October 49 Imports	277,407,418
October 48 Imports	193,813,990
October 49 Exports	205,901,248
October 48 Exports	150,232,998

Trade with China occupied first place reaching a total of 68,876,171 Hong Kong dollars in imports and 52,211,483 Hong Kong dollars in exports.

The trade with China is divided regionally as follows:

	<u>Hong Kong Dollars</u>	
	<u>Imports</u>	<u>Exports</u>
North China	39,863,140	27,690,115
Central China	6,917,924	14,454,273
South China	22,095,107	10,067,095

Imports from North China showed a gain of 23,200,000 Hong Kong dollars over September of this year.

SHANG HAI FOREIGN EXCHANGE FIGURES -- Wen-hui Pao, 25 Nov 49

Data released by the Bank of China and the Trade Control Bureau in Shanghai indicate that permits were issued between 1 June and 31 October for the purchase of foreign exchange amounting to 8,509,498 US dollars, 1,435,895 British pounds, and 30,140,721 Hong Kong dollars.

INDUSTRIAL RAW MATERIALS NEEDED -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 30 Nov 49

Industrial raw material suppliers in Hong Kong have reported that the market in these goods is more active than at any time within the last 2 years. North, Central, and South China buyers are very urgent in their requests for supplies of such things as caustic soda, pyrites, etc.

Shang-hai alone has asked for more than 9,000 barrels of caustic soda. Local supplies of the above materials are completely sold out and local dealers are placing large orders abroad. One firm has ordered 8,000 tons of caustic soda from America. It is expected that 30,000 barrels of caustic soda will reach Hong-Kong by the end of this year; 6,000 barrels of this are already en route from England.

Ten ships coming into Hong Kong before the end of the year from England and the US are expected to bring in supplies of pyrites amounting to more than 10,000 tons.

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HONG KONG TIN SUPPLIES SHORT -- Kung-shang Jih-pao, 6 Nov 49

Since the political turn-over in Kuang-chow no shipments of tin have been reaching Hong Kong from the mainland. Previously shipments from Yunnan came by way of Viet Nam or directly by air transport. Recently, however, conditions have undergone a change. In addition, there seems to have been a phenomenal rise in shipping costs. Tin stocks in the hands of Hong Kong merchants, at present, amount to a little more than a hundred tons. There are perhaps 500 tons in the possession of certain powerful families, but they are demanding prices that merchants will not pay.

T'ien-ching COAL SUPPLIES AMPLE -- Wen-hui Pao, 20 Nov 49

T'ien-ching, 19 November -- To assure an ample coal supply for T'ien-ching and other North China cities, as well as to provide for shipment southward, the North China Coal Company has signed a contract with the T'ien-ching Railway Office for daily shipments of 4,500 tons of coal from the K'ai-lan and Men-t'ou-kou mines to be distributed to T'ien-ching, Pei-p'ing, Pao-ting, and Shang-hai. More than 3,600 tons of coal are coming into T'ien-ching daily and there are no shortages.

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